



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 12 January 2004

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](#)

www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Isanti County News reports Connexus Energy is offering a reward for information about vandals who threw a metal bar into the Isanti electrical substation causing a power loss to 3,943 homes and businesses and extinguishing traffic lights. (See item [3](#))
- NBC reports police have broken up an identity theft ring in the Baltimore–Washington area and seized 250 counterfeit credit cards, valued at more than \$1 million. (See item [7](#))
- Dow Jones reports FedEx and UPS have told lawmakers that they are taking steps to crack down on illicit Internet pharmacies, amid growing scrutiny of the delivery industry's role as a middleman in the drug–supply chain. (See item [13](#))
- CNN reports Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge announced Friday, January 9, that the national terror threat alert level had been lowered from orange, or high, to yellow, or elevated. (See item [22](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [General](#); [DHS/IAIP Web Information](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *January 10, Indianapolis Star* — **Power restored after explosion. A fire at a southwestside electrical substation in Indianapolis, IN, knocked out power on Saturday, January 10, to**

about 6,700 customers in a mostly industrial area. Indianapolis Power and Light officials said power was restored about one hour after the 12:15 p.m. incident. Neighbors heard an explosion at the substation at Warman Avenue and Morris Street. The blast launched a fireball 200 feet into the air, fire officials said. Indianapolis Fire Department spokesperson Gregg Harris said no one was hurt and no hazardous materials were involved. **The fire was confined to a transformer and the cause was under investigation,** Harris said.

Source: <http://www.indystar.com/articles/2/110283-9822-093.html>

2. *January 09, King County Journal (WA)* — **PSE nearly done restoring power. Puget Sound Energy kept 74 crews — nearly 300 workers — busy Thursday, January 8, restoring service to King County, WA, customers who lost electricity due to ice-laden trees and branches toppling onto power lines.** As of 5 p.m. Thursday, approximately 9,000 PSE customers were without power, according to spokesperson Dorothy Bracken. At the height of the outages Wednesday, January 7, 125,000 PSE customers were without electricity. Bracken said there have been more than 300 separate outages this week, nearly all of them affecting fewer than 800 customers. The largest occurred Wednesday on Vashon Island when 6,000 customers lost power for three hours after a tree fell onto a high-voltage transmission line at a substation. Bracken said that after larger transmission lines were repaired relatively quickly, the work slowed Thursday as crews moved to fix distribution lines that run up and down streets and service lines that run to individual homes. Of the 74 four-person crews, 24 were brought in from British Columbia, Oregon and elsewhere in Washington state.

Source: <http://www.kingcountyjournal.com/sited/story/html/153219>

3. *January 07, Isanti County News (MN)* — **Vandals cause Isanti power outage. A \$2,500 reward is being offered by Connexus Energy for information about vandals who threw a metal bar into the electrical substation at 606 Whiskey Road in Isanti, MN, at 6:34 p.m. December 30 causing a power loss to 3,943 homes and businesses and extinguishing some traffic lights.** Power was not restored for nearly three hours with the interruption at the Isanti substation causing lights to dim all the way to Cambridge and St. Francis. Damage estimate to the substation alone has been set at \$10,000 according to Connexus vice president Matt Yseth. "Fortunately such incidents don't occur often. We have security measures in place but obviously if someone is intent on doing damage they will," said Yseth. **Neighbors in the area of the substation first reported a "wall of flame" when the metal bar hit the transformer and law officers initially were checking local emergency rooms for persons with eye injuries.** The substation vandalism is under investigation by the Isanti Police Department.

Source: <http://www.isanticountynews.com/2004/January/7vandalism.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Sector

4. *January 09, The Providence Journal (RI)* — **Town to dig up chemical tank, test soil.** A contractor will begin work on January 20 to remove an old chemical tank buried beneath Deerfield Park, RI, town engineer Richard B. Geldard said. **The tank had been causing concerns since the summer, when a crew of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency workers discovered it while using ground-penetrating radar on the site of the former Smithfield-O'Donnell Chemical Co.** The Town Council has allocated \$30,000 for the

work, which was ordered by the EPA. Geldard, the town engineer, said that once the tank is lifted from the ground, samples of soil beneath it will be checked for possible leakage. Cynthia Gianfrancesco, principal DEM environmental scientist, said last fall that hazardous materials might be buried elsewhere on the former factory site. Gianfrancesco said that there was an explosion at the plant, which produced lacquer and other materials, in the early 1960s. She said the debris, possibly including chemical drums, was buried after being bulldozed into one pile.

Source: http://www.projo.com/northwest/content/projo_20040109_smepa09.26b684.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *January 09, Washington Post* — **Huge movement of troops is underway. The Pentagon has begun a shift of troops into and out of Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan that promises to be the most challenging movement of U.S. forces in more than half a century, military officials announced Thursday, January 8. The turnover of troops, intended to substitute fresh U.S. forces for the battle-tested ones that have spent up to a year at war, poses enormous logistical burdens.** Scheduled to last between now and May, the operation is unusual not only for its large scope and compressed timetable but also for its need to transport sizable numbers of troops into and out of combat zones at the same time. "It's the biggest one we've ever had in some respects," said Lt. Gen. Franklin "Buster" Hagenbeck, chief of Army personnel. Although the military has handled other sizable flows of troops, the movement has tended to be essentially in one direction. This time, the traffic will be going both ways, with more than 100,000 troops pouring into Iraq and about the same number — and their dusty, worn equipment — pulling out. An additional 20,000 troops in Kuwait are due to be replaced, along with about 10,000 soldiers in Afghanistan. **In all, the shift will involve "the better part of" 8 1/2 of the Army's 10 active-duty divisions, said Army Geneneral John Abizaid, commander of U.S. forces in the region.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A1773-2004Jan8.html>

6. *January 09, Reuters* — **Missile defense test sends rocket over Pacific. An interceptor booster designed for the U.S. missile defense system took off from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California for a test flight on Friday, January 9, after being delayed twice.** The test, which sent the Booster Verification-5 rocket about 2,600 miles into the Pacific test range, did not carry a kill vehicle or perform an intercept, said Missile Defense Agency spokesperson Rick Lehner. Instead, **the trial was designed to provide extensive performance data on systems ranging from rocket motors to internal temperatures.** Early data did not show problems with these systems, though analysis is expected to go on for months, the spokesperson said. The booster is designed to place a missile interceptor into space to shield U.S. cities from a long-range missile attack.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/040109/ba_arms_lockheed_1.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

7. *January 09, NBC25 (MD)* — **Police break up million-dollar identity theft ring.** Officials are calling it the largest illegal ID factory bust in the Baltimore–Washington area. **The Frederick County, MD, Sheriff's Office says a year-long investigation has led to the arrest of a Frederick-area man on identity theft charges.** The investigation started when a Michigan man reported someone had stolen his identity and opened accounts at Frederick's Bon-Ton and Sears stores. Frederick County Sheriff's Office detectives recently identified a suspect in the case as 39-year-old Jian Wang of Frederick. During a search of his home, police found fraudulent credit cards, social security cards and the equipment to make them. Detectives think Wang was using the illegal credit cards to buy computers, jewelry, furniture, and electronics. **At this point, detectives have seized 250 counterfeit cards, valued at more than \$1 million.**
Source: <http://www.nbc25.com/Global/story.asp?S=1594020>

[[Return to top](#)]

Transportation Sector

8. *January 10, CNN* — **Man demanded jet fly to Australia. An American Eagle commuter flight from New York to Washington was diverted Saturday because a threat was made by a passenger "against the aircraft," an airline spokesperson said. An FBI spokesperson said the threat involved a note given to someone on the plane. The spokesperson also said a man made demands to be flown to Australia.** A Transportation Security Administration official told CNN that the man's note stated he had a bomb on the plane. One man is in FBI custody but the FBI said the incident does not appear to be related to terrorism. American Eagle Flight 4959, carrying 19 passengers, was headed from LaGuardia Airport in New York to Reagan National Airport in Washington. Federal authorities said there were five crew members, but Lisa Bailey, a spokeswoman for the airline, said there were three crew members. The flight was diverted to Dulles International in Washington and landed at noon. The plane, an Embraer Regional Jet, model 135, usually seats 37 passengers, the airline said. The jet has a range just under 2,000 miles when fully fueled. The air distance between New York and Sydney, Australia is 9,933 miles.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/US/South/01/10/plane.diverted/index.html>
9. *January 10, Associated Press* — **Soldier carrying land mine kicked off flight. A 24-year-old Army sergeant was removed from an American Airlines flight after an inert land mine was found in his checked baggage, the Transportation Safety Administration said.** TSA screeners noticed the land mine Friday, pulled the bag from the luggage system at Denver International Airport and confiscated the mine, TSA spokesman Mike Fierberg said. No flights were delayed. The soldier, whose name was not released, could face civil penalties for trying to put a prohibited item aboard a flight, Fierberg said. No criminal charges would be filed, he said. The man was released by police, but the airline refused to allow him aboard his flight to Dallas, Fierberg said.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/US/Central/01/10/airport.security.ap/index.html>
10. *January 09, Associated Press* — **Strike looms at Northwest partner Mesaba.** Talks to avert a pilots walkout at Mesaba Airlines continued Friday, January 9, with the regional airline saying it won't try to fly any of its routes if pilots strike. **Mesaba's 844 pilots provide regional air service for Northwest Airlines from its hubs in Minneapolis–St. Paul, Detroit, and**

Memphis. The airline serves 119 cities in the northern U.S. and Canada, including several that are not served by any other airline. Negotiators met through the night and will continue to meet as a Friday night deadline approached. A 30-day cooling-off period ends at 11:01 p.m. CT Friday, and pilots have said they will strike then if a deal isn't reached. Jackson said as a precaution, Mesaba might cancel some flights Friday evening. Northwest owns 28% of Mesaba, provides its airplanes, and handles its reservations. Mesaba has said it must keep its labor costs flat to keep flying for Northwest. Friday's potential strike shows how the major airlines' drive to cut costs is filtering through the industry. Josh Marks, associate director of George Washington University's Aviation Institute, predicted that Mesaba would settle with its pilots because Northwest will want to avoid a strike. **Northwest "cannot afford to take one at this point for such a key affiliate in their network," Marks said.**

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2004-01-09-mesaba-strike_x.htm

11. *January 09, Exeter News-Letter (NH)* — **Car rolls over onto railroad tracks. Officials are praising the quick communication between local police and railroad police that enabled the Amtrak Downeaster train to stop only minutes before it would have slammed into a vehicle that had rolled onto the tracks.** Phouthanome Phoubaykham, 18, of 135 Exeter Road, was driving northbound on Route 108 around 7:25 a.m. Tuesday, January 6, when slippery road conditions caused her Toyota 4Runner to slide off the road, smash into a guard rail and roll over a steep embankment, landing on its roof on the railroad tracks as an approaching train was less than a mile away. The train was heading south to Boston with a load of morning commuters. After witnesses who saw the accident called 911, Newmarket dispatcher Nancy Maglaras was able to contact Boston and Maine Railroad to stop the Amtrak Downeaster train before it rammed the overturned vehicle. According to Newmarket Police Sgt. Rick Beaudet, the train came to a stop about three-quarters of a mile from the accident scene. "I don't think there was a whole lot of time for response there; I think it was something that had to be acted on," said Patricia Douglas, manager of marketing and development for the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority, which operates the train service. **The situation Tuesday highlighted the close work of the railroad and local police.**

Source: http://www.seacoastonline.com/news/exeter/01092004/news/6945_3.htm

[[Return to top](#)]

Postal and Shipping Sector

12. *January 09, DM News* — **USPS begins reclaiming funds for Move Update violations.** A U.S. Postal Service (USPS) official said last week that the agency has started reclaiming postage discounts from First-Class mailers who do not comply with its Move Update rules. Angelo Wider, USPS manager of finance administration, said that for much of last year the USPS reviewed mailings but usually gave mailers a chance to make the correction before reclaiming any discounts. **The reclaimed discounts will be only for the portion of mailings not in compliance.** The decision follows tests in 2002 that revealed some mailers did not use Move Update properly. Under Move Update, which is designed to reduce undeliverable-as-addressed mail, mailers using automation or presort rates are required to update addresses every 180 days using the Address Change Service, National Change of Address, FastForward, or other USPS-approved method.

Source: http://www.dmnews.com/cgi-bin/artprevbot.cgi?article_id=2612_0

13. *January 09, Dow Jones* — **Fedex, UPS say they shun illicit-drug parcels.** FedEx Corp. and United Parcel Service Inc. (UPS) told lawmakers that they are taking steps to crack down on illicit Internet pharmacies. **The push to root out illegal drugs by the two companies, which carry about 75 percent of all air and ground packages in the U.S., comes amid growing scrutiny of the delivery industry's role as a middleman in the drug-supply chain.** Some lawmakers and regulators are worried that FedEx and UPS are irresistible targets for sellers of controlled substances and importers of large amounts of prescription drugs. Last month, the House Energy and Commerce Committee asked the two delivery providers to show what they are doing to stop the flow. UPS said it notifies law enforcement officials whenever it discovers a shipment containing illegal drugs. **UPS also is trying to discourage Internet pharmacies that appear to be defying U.S. laws from using UPS, according to a letter the company sent to the House committee last week.** FedEx has told lawmakers that it has intensified its efforts to go after Internet pharmacies that use its logo on their Web sites, which FedEx doesn't allow. **FedEx also has ceased doing business with a handful of Internet pharmacies.**
Source: <http://news.morningstar.com/news/DJ/M01/D09/1073682660752.ht ml>

[[Return to top](#)]

Agriculture Sector

14. *January 09, USAgNet* — **The UN called in to help Vietnam with chicken virus. The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said it was sending experts to Vietnam to help tackle an outbreak of bird flu that has killed hundreds of thousands of chickens and spread to other animals.** Anton Rychener, the UN agency's representative in Vietnam, said the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development would make a formal request for FAO assistance on Monday. **"The agriculture ministry has informed us that their tests show it is bird flu but they have been unable to verify the particular strain of the virus,"** Rychener said. "We are keeping on top of the situation and will send experts into the country to help the ministry tackle the matter. The first, a veterinary expert in communicable livestock diseases, will arrive next week." Blood samples from infected chickens have been sent to overseas laboratories for further analysis, he added. Bird flu, which is highly contagious, killed six people in Hong Kong in 1997.
Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.cfm?Id=30&yr=2004>

15. *January 09, Virginia Tech* — **Researchers seek to clone mad cow resistant cattle strain. Scientists in the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) at Virginia Tech are trying to clone cattle that are genetically incapable of developing Mad Cow Disease or bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).** Will Eyestone, associate professor in Large Animal Clinical Sciences, and Bill Huckle, associate professor of biomedical science, are conducting research with prions, the molecules believed to cause the brain-wasting disease. While scientists don't know how to stop the pathogenic prion process once it gets underway, some, like Eyestone and Huckle, are interested in creating an animal that lacks the genomic architecture to code for the production of normal prions. "In order to be susceptible to prion disease, the individual has to be able to express the prion," says Eyestone. **While the prospects of cloning prion free cattle on the scale of America's 100 million head cattle herd may seem daunting, Eyestone points out that with the widespread use of artificial insemination**

in modern agriculture, great strides could be made in as little as six or seven generations. On a smaller scale, sub-populations of prion-free cattle could be produced for use in other tasks such as the production of pharmaceutical compounds that are eventually used in people, thereby eliminating the risk that a drug produced to promote human health might accidentally cause the deadly neurological condition.

Source: http://www.innovations-report.com/html/reports/agricultural_sciences/report-24616.html

16. *January 09, American Phytopathological Society* — **California pistachio industry threatened by disease. According to Themis Michailides, plant pathologist at the University of California, Davis, panicle and shoot blight of pistachio, has become a disease of major importance for pistachios grown in California. "Yield losses from 40 to 100 percent were not uncommon in the orchards where the disease was discovered,"** said Michailides. Panicle and shoot blight is caused by *Botryosphaeria dothidea*, a fungus that causes diseases that are aggressive and very difficult to control. According to Michailides, the pistachio industry in California is based on a cultivar that is very susceptible to this particular fungus. **"Because of the California pistachio's susceptibility to this fungus, panicle and shoot blight has the potential to reach epidemic levels in pistachio orchards in only a few years,"** he said. To prevent such epidemics from occurring, and since some resistance to the disease exists in the present *Pistacia* germplasm, breeders need to work closely with plant pathologists to develop disease resistant varieties of the pistachio tree. The California pistachio industry produced approximately 300 million pounds of pistachios in 2002 and continues to grow each year.

Source: http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2004-01/aps-cpi010904.php

[[Return to top](#)]

Food Sector

17. *January 09, Ag Professional* — **Farm-raised salmon linked to pollutants. Farm-raised salmon contain significantly more dioxins and other potentially cancer-causing pollutants than salmon caught in the wild, says a new study.** The study tested contaminants in 700 salmon bought around the world and found those farmed in Northern Europe contained the most pollutants, followed by North America, and then Chile. Eating more than a meal of farm-raised salmon per month, depending on its country of origin, could slightly increase the risk of getting cancer later in life, according to the study. Researchers blamed the feed used on fish farms for concentrating ocean pollutants, advised farmers to switch feed and recommended that consumers in the meantime eat more wild salmon. But the study's conclusions are controversial. **The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) insisted that the levels of pollutants in farm-raised salmon are too low for serious concern and urged Americans not to let the new research frighten them into a diet change.** The average dioxin level for farm-raised salmon was 11 times higher than wild salmon's, 1.88 parts per billion compared with 0.17 ppb. For PCBs, the average was 36.6 ppb in farm-raised salmon and 4.75 in wild. Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=23016

18. *January 09, Oster Dow Jones Commodity News* — **Canada announces increased cattle testing for BSE. In a move to restore consumer confidence in Canadian beef, testing for**

mad cow disease will increase to about 8,000 cattle a year from the current 5,500, according to Canadian Agriculture Minister Bob Speller. "I believe what this testing will do in fact will be to assure not only Canadians, but all the world, that we not only have the highest quality beef but we have some of the safest beef and some of the safest food," Speller said. **Speller said it isn't scientifically necessary to test every cow destined for slaughter, as is done in Japan.** Mad cow disease, formally known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy, eats sponge-like holes in the brain, but tests to confirm if the animal has the disease cannot be conducted on live animals. **In similar move to bolster beef industry credibility, the premier of Alberta, Canada, is considering testing every cow that is slaughtered in a provincial facility.** The plan could see about 30,000 animals tested each year, more than 30 times the current number in that province.

Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=23011

19. *January 08, Food Safety Inspection Service* — **New regulations to address BSE.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Thursday issued four new rules to further enhance safeguards against Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). **USDA is publishing a notice announcing that FSIS inspectors are no longer marking cattle tested for BSE as "inspected and passed" until confirmation is received that the cattle have, in fact, tested negative for BSE. FSIS declaring that skull, brain, trigeminal ganglia, eyes, vertebral column, spinal cord, and dorsal root ganglia of cattle 30 months of age or older and the small intestine of all cattle are specified risk materials, thus prohibiting their use in the human food supply.** These prohibitions are effective immediately upon publication in the Federal Register. FSIS is requiring federally inspected establishments that slaughter cattle remove, segregate and dispose of these specified risk materials so that they cannot possibly enter the food chain. To facilitate the enforcement of this rule, FSIS has developed procedures for verifying the approximate age of cattle that are slaughtered in official establishments. State inspected plants must have equivalent procedures in place to prevent these specified risk materials from entering the food supply.

Source: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OA/news/2004/bseregs.htm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health Sector

20. *January 11, Agence France Presse* — **Third suspected SARS case in southern China. Hong Kong health authorities said on Sunday they had been informed of a third suspected case of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus in China's southern Guangdong province.** "Around noon today we had a verbal notification from Guangdong about a new suspected case of SARS," said Thomas Tsang, a Hong Kong Department of Health consultant in Community Medicine. The case involved a 35-year-old man, he said. A 20-year-old waitress in the province last week became the second suspected case of SARS there since July.

Source: http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp_asiapacific/view/65774/1/.html

21. *January 09, BBC News* — **New warning over monkeypox threat. The U.S. could face outbreaks of monkeypox if the virus has gained a foothold among native animals, say experts.** The illness, from the same family as smallpox, is endemic in parts of Africa, but 81 cases were reported last year in six U.S. states. Researchers from Stanford University say that it could return. It is thought that monkeypox was carried into the U.S. by rodents imported as pets. It is extremely contagious among rodents, and fears now center on whether or not the virus has managed to spread into native rodent populations. If so, say the researchers, it could form a "reservoir" of the virus which could provide the source of further outbreaks. **Doctors believe that, unlike smallpox, it currently finds it hard to jump from person to person.** The researchers call for extra vigilance against the infection. **"Although wild-type monkeypox virus has a very low potential for use as an agent of bioterrorism, how readily the virus can be genetically manipulated to exhibit greater virulence or transmissability for such use is less clear,"** the researchers said. **The researchers point to an experiment in which a related virus was transformed into a killer by a simple genetic manipulation during an attempt to produce a contraceptive vaccine.**

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/3380177.stm>

[[Return to top](#)]

Government Sector

22. *January 09, CNN* — **National threat level lowered to yellow. Saying that the United States was not letting down its guard, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge announced Friday, January 9, that the national terror threat alert level had been lowered from orange, or high, to yellow, or elevated.** Ridge said that officials were "still concerned about continuing threats," but the conditions that led to the decision to raise the alert level had passed. "I know that we are all thankful that nothing happened. The holidays have passed. The potential danger that large gatherings present during the holidays has passed. They passed safely and without incident," Ridge said. **Ridge said that "added vigilance and security" will remain in "certain locales and certain areas within the private sector."** He refused to elaborate. For remarks by Secretary Tom Ridge on lowering national threat level to yellow see:

http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/press_release/press_re lease_0335.xml

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/US/01/09/terror.threat.level/index.html>

23. *January 09, Associated Press* — **U.S. cities to press Congress for help under tight budgets. National League of Cities leaders said on Friday, January 9, that Congress should preserve or raise federal funding for U.S. cities in areas such as homeland security, housing, education and transportation while letting local governments decide how to spend the money.** About 25 mayors and leaders from the league of about 1,700 cities began a two-day meeting Friday in Miami Beach, FL, to set their lobbying goals for when Congress goes into session later this month, as many U.S. cities are having a tough time with tight budgets. "The obligations that a local government has to meet are in fact increasing while ... the resources available are being curbed," said Anthony Williams, mayor of Washington. Some goals for the league are (1) The league wants Congress to include more money for mass transit if it reauthorizes funding for programs under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st

Century; (2) The league opposes a bill that would require local governments to pay to clean up water polluted with the gasoline additive MTBE, which could cost \$29 billion; and (3) The league wants full funding for the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind education act.

Source: http://www.heraldtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/2004_0109/APN/401091056

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

24. *January 09, Hernando Today (FL)* — **Hazmat team begins operations.** After two years of training, Hernando County's (FL) new Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) Response Team was officially activated Tuesday. **The team, is composed of 60 members from local fire departments, the Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management Department and other agencies, and is commanded by Danny Roberts, chief of operations with Hernando County Fire Rescue.** "A lot of work went into establishing this (team)," said Roberts. The ultimate winner, he said, is the public, who can be assured that — in case of a chemical spill or other event — help would arrive sooner. The Hazmat team consists of three units — one on the east side of the county manned by Hernando County Fire Rescue; one in the county's central portion, manned by Brooksville Fire Department; and another on the west side of the county, manned by Spring Hill Fire Rescue. **The three Hazmat captains, one from each department, will provide hazardous materials operational consultations 24 hours a day.** Soon after September 11, the county's emergency workers were swamped with calls ranging from chlorine leak, two white powder call-ins, a petroleum leak and unknown canister sightings. Sensing the urgency, county commissioners one month later directed the emergency management department to form a plan addressing the response to hazardous materials.



Source: <http://www.hernandotoday.com/MGA5FA3H7PD.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information and Telecommunications Sector

25. *January 09, Government Computer News* — **New malware masquerades as Microsoft update.** A Trojan horse program that appears to be a Microsoft security update can download malicious code from a remote Web site and install a back door on the compromised computer, leaving it vulnerable to remote control. IDefense Inc., computer security company, said the malicious code is the latest example of so-called social engineering to fool Windows users. It is similar to the W32Sven worm, which last year passed itself off as a Microsoft patch. "The success of Sven in 2003 encouraged virus writers to put effort into creating official-looking e-mails and Web sites," said Ken Dunham, director of malicious code for iDefense. The Trojan arrives as an attachment to an e-mail that appears to be from Windowsupdate@microsoft.com. The subject line says, "Windows XP Service Pack (Express)–Critical Update." **The message describes the attachment, WinxpSp1.A, as a cumulative patch that corrects security flaws in versions of Microsoft Internet Explorer, Outlook and Outlook Express.** It downloads an executable file that will open a TCP port to listen for remote commands from the attacker.

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels	
 AlertCon: 1 out of 4 https://gtoc.iss.net	 Security Focus ThreatCon: 1 out of 4 http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/
Current Virus and Port Attacks	
Virus:	#1 Virus in the United States: WORM_LOVGATE.G Source: http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html , Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]
Top 10 Target Ports	135 (epmap), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 137 (netbios-ns), 1433 (ms-sql-s), 554 (rtsp), 6129 (dameware), 80 (www), 445 (microsoft-ds), 53 (domain), 139 (netbios-ssn) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center

[\[Return to top\]](#)

General Sector

26. *January 11, Australian* — **Indonesia cafe blast kills four. Four people were killed and at least three others wounded in a blast that ripped through a crowded karaoke cafe on Indonesia's Sulawesi island late on Saturday night.** The blast, apparently caused by a "low explosives" bomb hidden somewhere on the second floor of the building, killed four people instantly and reportedly wounded one other who is now in a local hospital's intensive care unit. Two others with minor injuries have been discharged from hospital. **Police are yet to name any suspects.** A forensic team from South Sulawesi's capital, Makassar, was sent to Palopo city to investigate the blast. The four dead were all customers in the cafe near Palopo city and three of them had already been identified as locals, police said. Indonesia has been regularly shaken by bomb attacks in recent years. The most recent blast was on New Year's Eve when an explosion at a pop concert in the province of Aceh killed 11 people.
Source: http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,574,4,8366867%255E2703,00.html

27. *January 10, CNN* — **Rebels hit Philippine power plant. Six people are dead after around 50 rebels attacked a power station south of the Philippine capital of Manila with grenade launchers and machine guns.** Officials said three troops were killed and seven were injured after the attackers drove up to the gate of the power plant in Calaca town before dawn on Saturday and opened fire. Security guards and soldiers stopped the attackers from entering the complex, and they were pushed back after 15 minutes of gun fire exchange. The bodies of three

rebels were found at the scene. The military seized M14s, M16s and anti-tank weapons from the rebels, believed to be members of the New People's Army. The Philippines National Power Corporation says the plant is now "secure and operational." **If the attack had been successful, power to Manila and parts of the northern Philippines would have been disrupted, CNN's Judith Torres reported.** The plant is about 50 miles (80 km) south of Manila.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/WORLD/asiapcf/01/10/philippines.raid/index.html>

28. *January 09, Associated Press* — **Student charged with supporting terrorism.** A Saudi graduate student at the University of Idaho was indicted Friday on charges he supplied his computer expertise to terrorist groups. **Prosecutors said Sami Omar Al-Hussayen, 33, put together Web sites to recruit members and raise money for Muslim terrorist activities. He was charged with providing material support to terrorism. The indictment came less than two weeks before Al-Hussayen was set to go on trial on visa fraud charges brought against him last February. He has been in jail since then.** U.S. Attorney Tom Moss said Al-Hussayen, a graduate student in computer science, knew his computer services and expertise on behalf of two Islamic organizations would be used "to recruit and to raise funds for violent holy war, or jihad, in Israel, Chechnya and elsewhere, which have involved destruction of property, kidnaping, maiming and murder." "Sami is not guilty of committing these offenses," defense attorney David Nevin said. "I don't see anything that wasn't available to them long ago. I think they have stalled this off to avoid going ahead with their trial."
- Source: http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/sns-ap-t-error-indictment.0.6576050.story?coll=sns-ap-nation-headline_s

29. *January 09, CNN* — **Reward of \$100,000 offered in ricin case.** The FBI and other federal agencies Thursday offered a reward of up to \$100,000 for information leading to the arrest of the author or authors of a letter found in a South Carolina post office containing the deadly poison ricin. **The letter included a sealed metal container with a small amount of ricin inside. It was discovered by a processing clerk at a postal facility October 15, 2003, in Greenville, South Carolina, but no one was exposed to the poison.** The typewritten letter was addressed to the Department of Transportation and demanded that changes in truckers' sleep/work schedules not be implemented. "I have easy access to castor pulp," the author of the letter wrote, referring to the waste of castor bean processing which can be used to make ricin. "If my demand is dismissed I'm capable of making ricin," the letter continued. "My demand is simple, January 4, 2004 starts the new hours of service for trucks which include a ridiculous ten hours in the sleeper berth. Keep it at eight or I will start dumping." Those federal regulations did go into effect Sunday, allowing long haul drivers to be on the road for 11 hours after 10 hours off-duty. The author, who claimed to be a fleet owner of a tanker company, signed the letter, "Fallen Angel."
- Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/US/01/08/fbi.ricin.letter/index.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

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